

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

FOOD - The global food system is making people sick in both rich and poor countries and billions are suffering from the "hidden hunger" of a diet without sufficient nutrients, the United Nations' expert on food says.

POVERTY - The world has been able to meet some of the UN goals of reducing poverty and raising living standards in developing nations, though some regions like sub-Saharan Africa are not reaping many benefits, the UN chief says.

DISASTER RISK - The UN launches talks on a 2015 disaster reduction plan, the first to explain and detail the work required to reduce disasters, including in the face of climate threats.

AFRICA

GAMBIA has appealed for food aid after 70 percent of its crops failed during the last growing season, extending the reach of a food crisis already hitting millions of people across Africa's Sahel strip.

UGANDA - Thousands of Rwandan refugees living in Uganda remain unwilling to return home, citing a fear of persecution, despite the UN Refugee Agency's (UNHCR) invocation of a clause ending their refugee status.

MIDDLE EAST

EDUCATION - If the Arab Spring is to have any lasting impact, education must top the priority list of post-revolutionary reforms in the Arab world, experts said today at the launch of the 2010-2011 Arab Knowledge Report in the United Arab Emirates .

YEMEN - Almost five million Yemenis are unable to produce or buy the food they need, according to preliminary findings of a United Nations survey, which states that the number of people experiencing severe food insecurity has nearly doubled since 2009.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA - Researchers in Argentina have isolated a sunflower gene and implanted it into corn, wheat and soybean seeds to make them more resistant to drought and soil salinity, problems increasingly faced by this South American agricultural powerhouse as a result of global warming.

WFWO's Communications Team